

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for a pivot assembly for hard disk drive use comprising:

two ball bearings, each comprising an outer ring;

a shaft, wherein said ball bearings have been mated with both ends of the shaft;

an inner wall part, mounted on the shaft, and extending to an outer circumference of the outer ring of each of said ball bearings; and  
a sleeve, disposed between both of said ball bearings, and mated to the inner wall part,

wherein said sleeve is fixed by means of laser welding to the outer rings of said ball bearings,

wherein said sleeve further comprises a concave part formed in the outer circumference of said sleeve and having a bottom wall in the vicinity of the outer circumference of said outer rings, and

wherein the bottom wall of this concave part is laser welded with the outer circumference of said outer rings.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 1, wherein the concave part is a groove that extends along the entire circumference of said sleeve.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2 1, wherein the concave part is comprised of holes separated from each other in the circumferential direction of said sleeve.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus for a pivot assembly for hard disk drive use comprising:

two ball bearings, each comprising an outer ring;  
a shaft, wherein said ball bearings have been mated with both ends of the shaft;  
an inner wall part, mounted on the shaft, and extending to an outer  
circumference of the outer ring of each of said ball bearings; and  
a sleeve, disposed between both of said ball bearings, and mated to the inner  
wall part,

wherein said sleeve is fixed by means of laser welding to the outer rings of said  
ball bearings. The apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the sleeve further comprises a hole extending from the outer  
circumference of said sleeve to the outer circumference of said outer rings, and

wherein the edge part of this hole is laser welded to the outer circumference of  
said outer rings.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a rolling groove in the outer rings of the ball bearings, wherein said laser welding is carried out at places on the outer rings separated in the axial direction from the rolling groove of said outer rings.